

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn): A process for producing a sealed container from a tubular blank of square cross section by folding and sealing a container bottom forming portion of the blank to form a flat bottom, the process being characterized in that the process includes the step of sealing the bottom by collapsing an opening edge part of the container bottom forming portion to a flat form and sealing opposed walls of the collapsed opening edge part as lapped over each other to form a straight bottom seal rib.

2. (withdrawn): A process for producing a sealed container according to claim 1 which includes the step of sealing a top by forming a container top forming portion of the blank into a top in the form of a gabled roof and forming at a top portion corresponding to the ridge of the roof a top seal rib having inwardly folded gussets, the bottom sealing step and the top sealing step being so practiced that the bottom seal rib and the top seal rib are positioned across each other when seen axially of the blank.

3. (withdrawn): A process for producing a sealed container according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the bottom sealing step is followed by the step of sealing ears by forming the entire container bottom forming portion to a flat form so as to cause a pair of triangular ears to project from a lower end of a container trunk forming portion longitudinally of the bottom seal rib and joining the triangular ears as lapped over the flat part of the container bottom forming portion by sealing.

4. (currently amended): A sealed-container tubular blank for use in a process for producing a sealed container ~~according to any one of claims 1 or 2; from the tubular blank,~~ the tubular blank being of generally square cross section, the process including sealing a container bottom forming portion of the blank by collapsing an opening edge part of the container bottom forming portion to a flat form, and sealing opposed walls of the collapsed opening edge part lapped over each other to form a straight bottom seal rib extending along the entire bottom of the tubular blank;

the blank having a blank body in the form of a generally rectangular plate, the blank body having generally rectangular ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth panels extending continuously along the periphery of the blank with ~~first to third~~ first, second, and third vertical scores provided between the adjacent panels, the ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth panels respectively comprising ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth top panels, ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth trunk panels integral with the ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth top panels with ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth top horizontal scores formed therebetween, and ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth bottom panels integral with the ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth trunk panels with ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth bottom horizontal scores formed therebetween, odd-numbered or even-numbered two top panels among the ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth top panels being each provided with an inverted V-shaped roof folding score; odd-numbered or even-numbered two bottom panels among the ~~first to fourth~~ first, second, third, and fourth bottom panels being each provided with a V-shaped ear folding score; and

wherein the first, second, third, and fourth bottom panels comprise respective contiguous rib-forming portions below an apex of the V-shaped folding score, whereby opposed inner surfaces of the tubular blank are in mutual contact along a bottom edge of the tubular blank during the step of sealing opposed walls to form the straight bottom seal rib extending along the entire bottom of the tubular blank.

5. (currently amended): A The sealed container blank according to claim 4 wherein the two bottom panels having no ear folding score each have an outer end projecting beyond outer ends of the two bottom panels each provided with the ear folding score longitudinally of the blank.

6. (currently amended): A The sealed container blank according to claim 4 wherein the two bottom horizontal scores formed between the two bottom panels each provided with the ear folding score and the two trunk panels adjacent thereto are shifted from the other two bottom horizontal scores toward the trunk panel, ~~and are different from the latter scores in level.~~

7. (currently amended): A The sealed container blank according to claim 6 wherein the two bottom horizontal scores formed between the two bottom panels each provided with the ear folding score and the two trunk panels adjacent thereto are V- shaped as bulged toward the trunk panel.

8. (currently amended): A The sealed container blank according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 4 to 7 wherein the blank body has a striplike fifth panel integral with the fourth panel, with a fourth vertical score formed therebetween, and joined to an inner surface of a free edge portion of the first panel by sealing, the two top panels each provided with the roof folding score are the first and third top panels, and the two bottom panels each provided with the ear folding score are the second and fourth bottom panels.

9. (new): The sealed container blank according to claim 4, wherein a first width of the second and fourth bottom panels is smaller than a second width of the first and third bottom panels.

10. (new): The sealed container blank according to claim 7, wherein the two bottom horizontal scores are upwardly bulged by less than or equal to 1 mm.

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11. (new): The sealed container blank according to claim 4, wherein the process includes a step of sealing a container top by forming a container top forming portion of the blank into a top in the form of a gabled roof and forming at a top portion corresponding to the ridge of the roof a top seal rib having inwardly folded gussets, and

wherein the step of sealing the container bottom and the step of sealing the container top are so practiced that the bottom seal rib and the top seal rib are positioned across each other when seen axially of the blank.

12. (new): The sealed container blank according to claim 4, wherein the step of sealing the container bottom is followed by a step of sealing ears by forming the entire container bottom forming portion to a flat form so as to cause a pair of triangular ears to project from a lower end of a container trunk forming portion longitudinally of the bottom seal rib and joining the triangular ears as lapped over the flat part of the container bottom forming portion by sealing.
